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Message from the President of the United States, transmitting a communication from the Secretary of War, relative to the construction of the post of Fort Thornburgh, in the Territory of Utah

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47TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { Ex. Doc. No. 90.

FORT THORNBURGH, UTAH.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A communication from the Secretary of War, relative to the construction of the post of Fort Thornburgh, in the Territory of Utah.

MARCH 2, 1882.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, a communication from the Secretary of War, dated the 18th ultimo, inclosing plans and estimates for the construction of the post of Fort Thornburgh, Utah Territory, and recommending an appropriation of $84,000 for the purpose, and that the same be made available for immediate use.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
March 2, 1882.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 18, 1882.

I have the honor to transmit herewith, with the accompanying papers, plans and estimates for the construction of the post of Fort Thornburgh, Utah Territory.

It appearing from the indorsement of the General of the Army that the establishment of this post is absolutely necessary, I beg to recommend that the sum of eighty-four thousand dollars ($84,000) be appropriated by Congress, in accordance with the estimates, and that the same be made available for immediate use.

The alterations in the plans suggested by the Acting Quartermaster-General are approved by this department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

To the PRESIDENT.

HEADQUARTERS FORT THORNBURGH, UTAH,
December 15, 1881.

To the ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Headquarters Department of the Platte, Omaha, Nebr.

SIR: In compliance with instructions dated Headquarters Department of the Platte, October 11, 1881, I have the honor to forward plans for the construction of the post of

Fort Thornburgh, Utah, to accommodate two companies of cavalry and two of infantry.

These plans have been drawn to scale by Second Lieut. L. W. V. Kennon, Sixth Infantry.

I am unable to give architect's specifications of material and labor.

At this point, junction of Duchesne and Greene Rivers, the buildings could be of brick, to be made in the vicinity, or of adobe.

Suitable pine timber can be obtained on the Upper Duchesne for frame buildings.

The timber could be cut in the early spring and floated down on the June rise, a distance of about 60 miles.

An argillaceous sandstone is in sufficient quantity and close at hand, and was at first thought to be suitable. It has been used to construct the temporary oven, and so far has compactly stood the test of pressure and heat. Soaking in water for 3 days showed a gain of 3 per centum in weight, and subsequent freezing caused one piece to disintegrate, though a larger piece withstood this test also.

There should be 32 buildings, as follows:

1 commanding officer's quarters, as per plans.
1 set for post surveyor, as per plans.
1 set for post chaplain, as per plans.
12 company officers' quarters, as per plans.
4 barracks and kitchens, as per plans.
1 guard-house, as per plans.
1 adjutant's office, library, &c., as per plans.
1 quartermaster's storehouse, as per plans.
1 commissary of subsistence storehouse, as per plans.
1 ordnance room, as per plans.
1 bake house, as per plans.
1 granary, as per plans.
1 smith's, wheelwright, saddler, and carpenter shops, 26x125, as per plans.
2 stables, cavalry, 26x120, as per plans.
1 corral stable, 26x500, as per plans.
1 ice house, 26x60, as per plans.
1 hospital, to be one story, for 12 beds, as per G. O. No. 98, Headquarters of the Army, A. G. O., 1877, and circular No. 10, S. G. O., October 20, 1877, giving plans.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. S. HAWKINS,
Captain, Sixth Infantry, Commanding Post.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE,
CHIEF QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
Omaha, January 17, 1882.

Respectfully returned to the Adjutant-General, Department of the Platte, with an approximate estimate * * of cost, based upon best data obtainable. * *

M. I. LUDINGTON,
Chief Quartermaster.

Approximate estimate of cost of buildings at Fort Thornburgh, Utah, in accordance with plans sent from the post.

	Brick.	Frame.	
1 commanding officer's quarters	5,000	4,200	.....
1 double set quarters surgeon and chaplain	4,800	4,000	.....
6 double set company officers' quarters	30,000	24,000	.....
4 barracks and kitchens	.....	18,000	.....
1 guard-house	.....	3,700	.....
1 adjutant's office, library, school-room, &c	5,700	4,800	.....
1 quartermaster's storehouse	.....	3,800	.....
1 commissary of subsistence' storehouse	.....	3,800	.....
1 ordnance room	.....	800	.....
1 bake house	.....	1,300	.....
1 granary, 20x80	.....	3,000	.....
1 blacksmith, gunsmith, &c., 26x125	.....	2,800	.....
2 stables, cavalry, 26x120	.....	5,600	.....
1 corral stable, 26x500	.....	4,200	.....
1 ice house, 26x60	.....	1,400	.....
1 hospital, according to General Order, No. 98 of 1877, &c	.....	.....	*5,500
Total	.....	85,400	.....

*The estimated cost of the hospital, which, it is presumed, is to come out of the hospital fund, is $5,000.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, January, 20, 1882.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army * * *
In the absence of the senior general commanding.

R. WILLIAMS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., February 6, 1882.

Respectfully submitted to the honorable Secretary of War, recommending his approval of the plans and estimates for the new post at Fort Thornburgh. The Lieutenant-General is now present, and we have agreed upon the site and of the absolute necessity for the post, and it is very desirable that the appropriation be made as early as possible, because the season for work in that high latitude and altitude is very short, and work should begin in April or May. The necessity for this post was forced on the War Department by the removal of the Utes from Colorado to Utah, but as this is their last ditch, the present Fort Thornburgh will have some chance of permanency. At all events, troops must be maintained there or thereabouts, and cannot exist without shelter.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

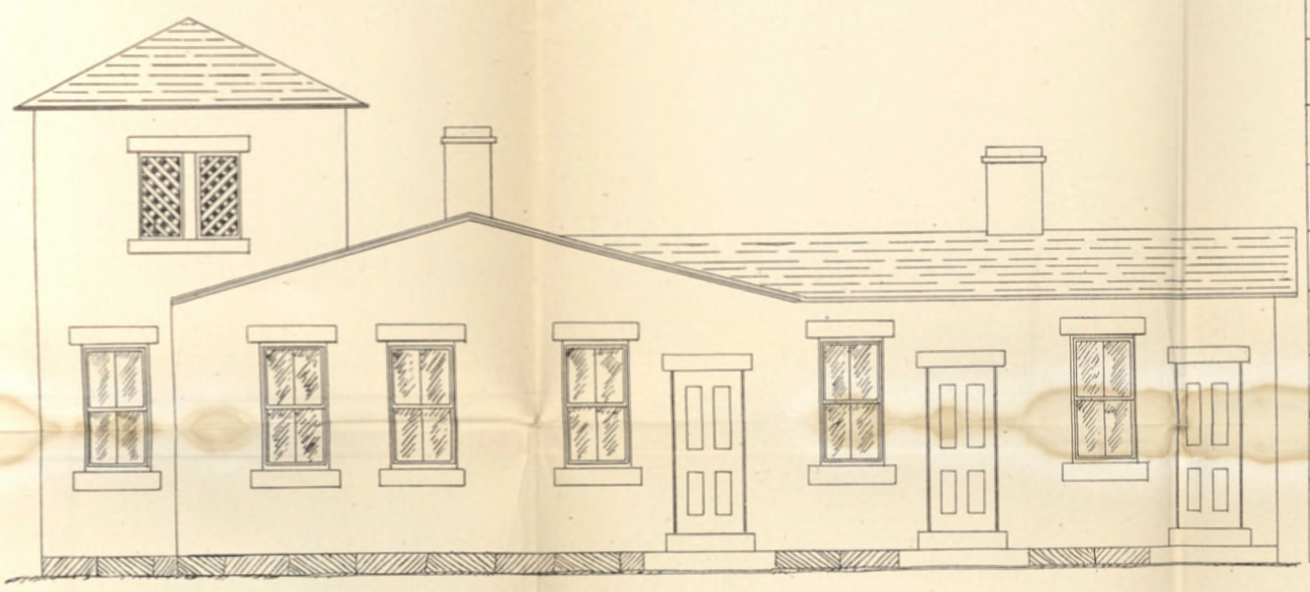
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 17, 1882.

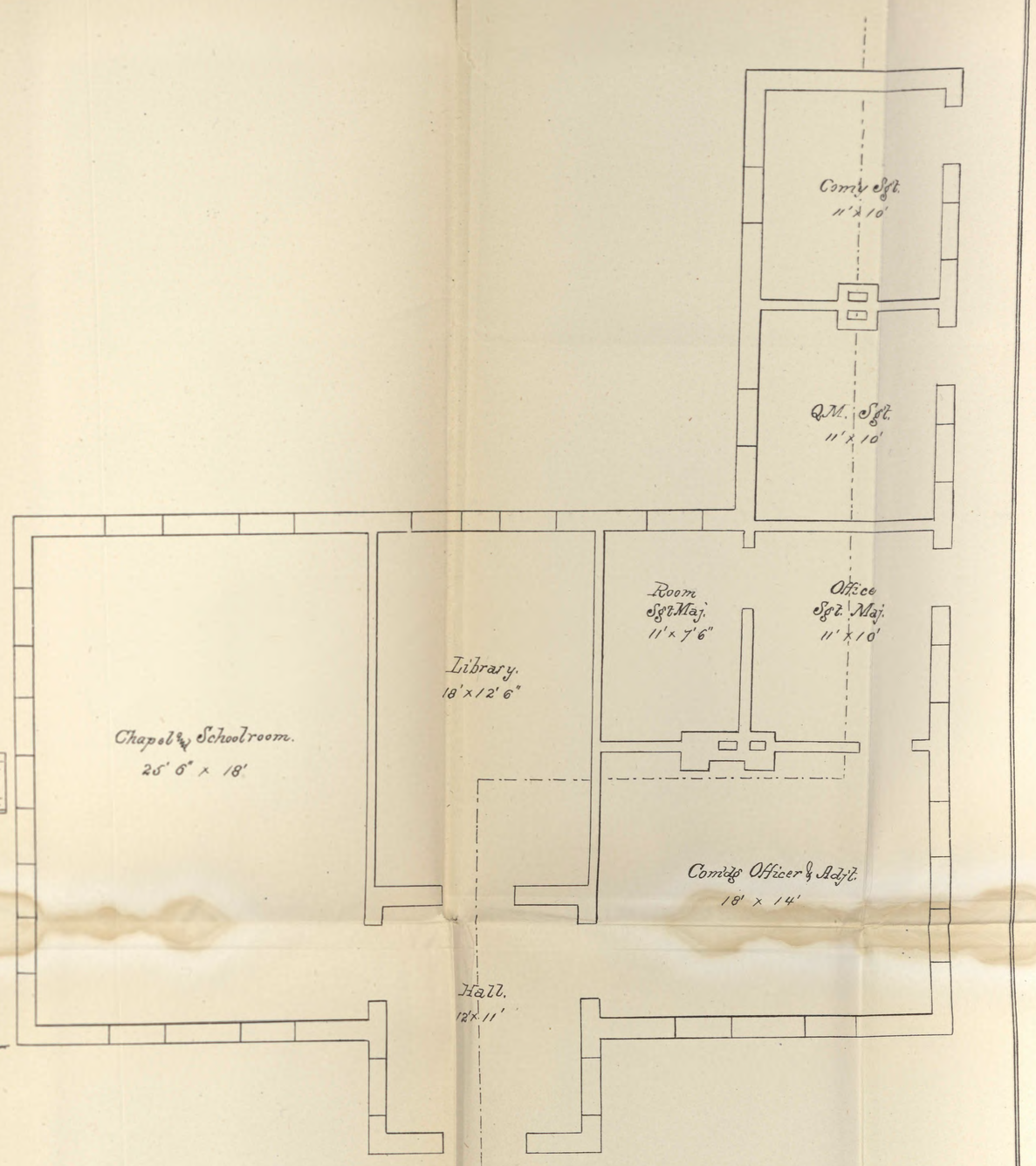
Respectfully returned to the honorable Secretary of War. Plans approved. It is recommended, however, that the upper story be a full one instead of mansard or gambrel roof; the cost will be no greater, and it is nearly impossible, with limited resources of a frontier post to prevent dormer windows from leaking. The height of ceiling of lower story need not be over 11 feet, and the upper story ceiling 9 feet, but the usual roof, raised, say 2 feet, will render the upper rooms very comfortable. The old idea of crippling the upper story renders the building very expensive and difficult to construct. They are inconvenient and almost useless under the thin fiction. The attic is not a room. The full story is better, more seasonable, and not more expensive, and is, therefore, strongly recommended.

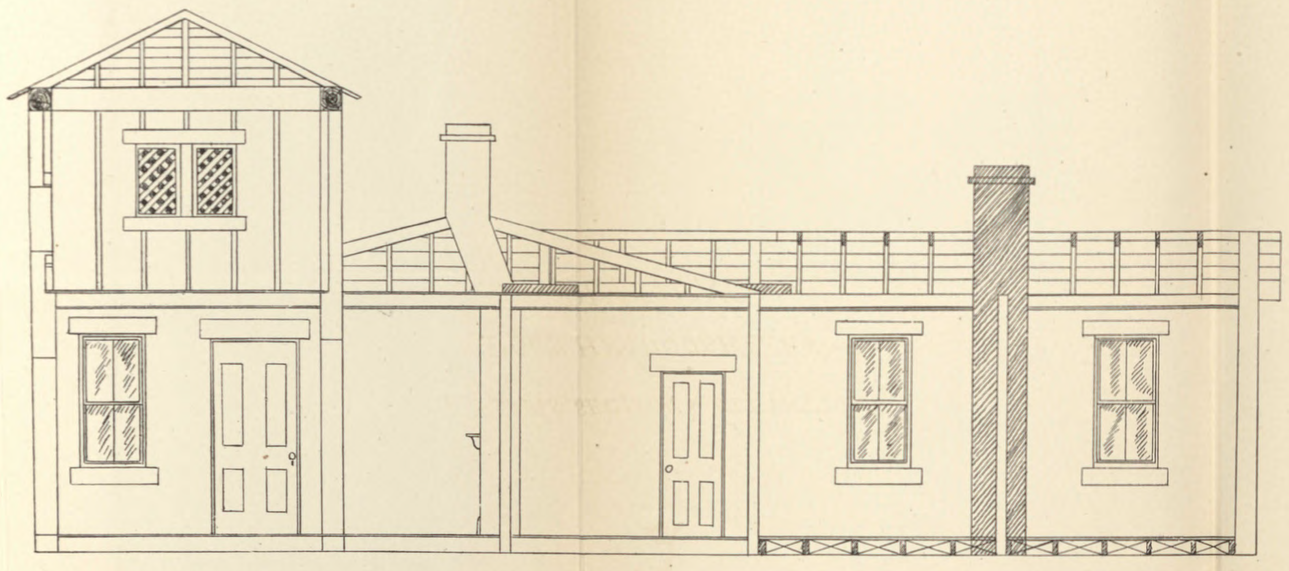
Duplicate copies of the plans are herewith, as requested.

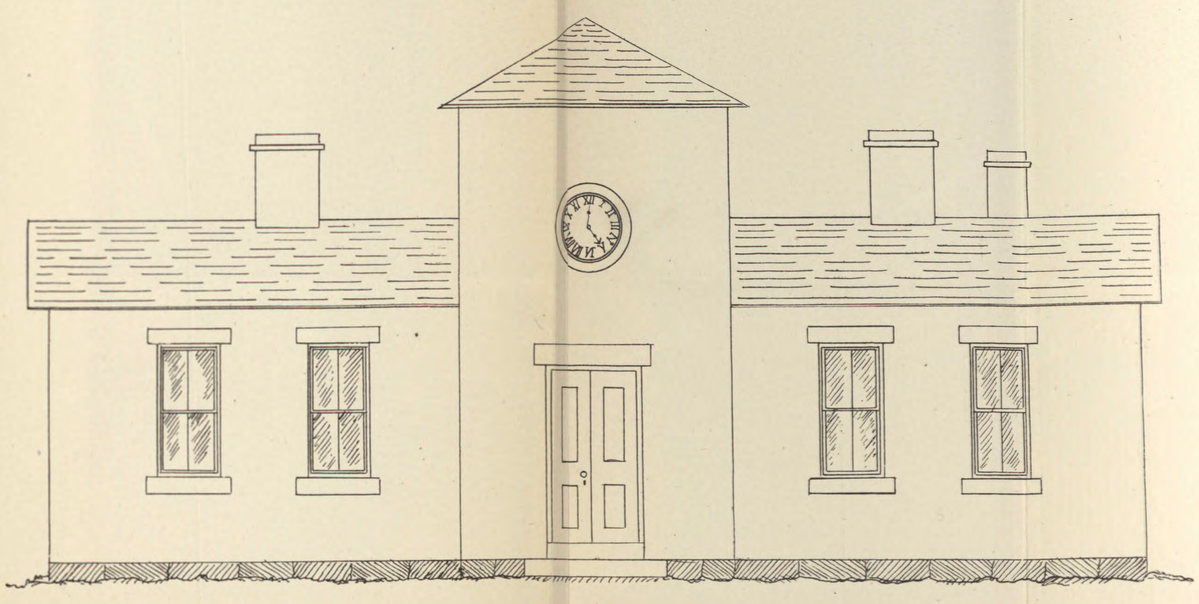
S. B. HOLABIRD,
Assistant Quartermaster-General, in charge.

O







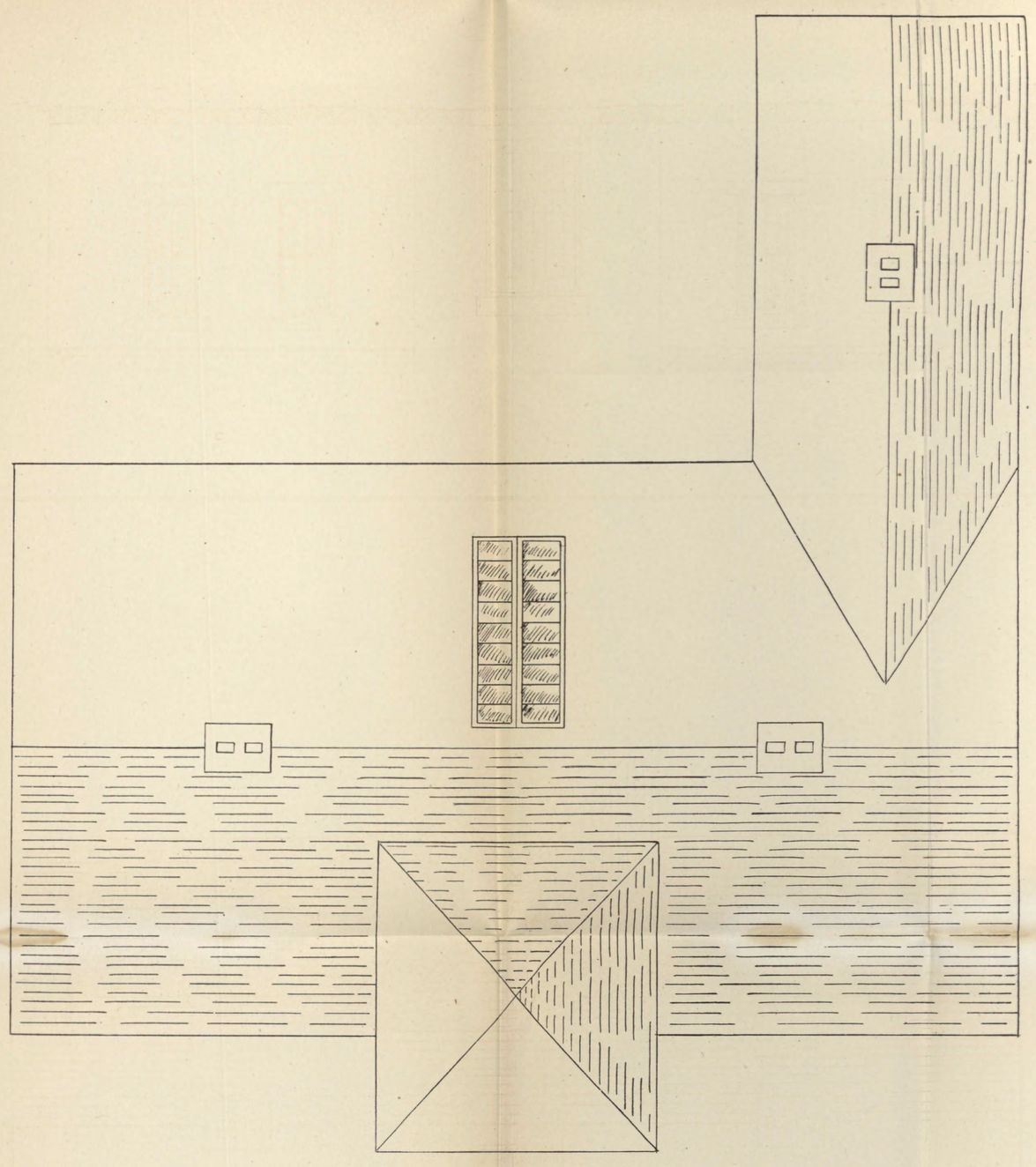


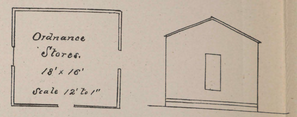
A

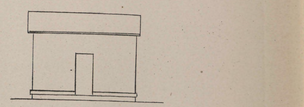
PLANS, SECTION & ELEVATIONS,
of a
POST HEADQUARTERS
— BUILDING, —
designed for erection at
FORT THORNBURGH
— UTAH. —
1881.

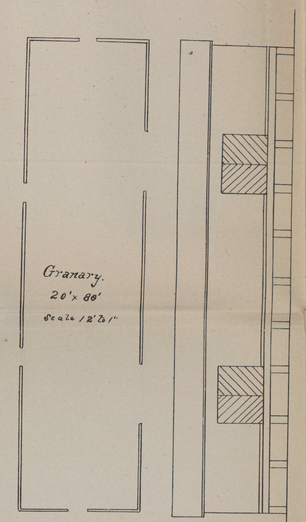
98	C. Q. M. G. Dep't. Platte	71/1882

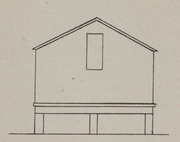
Traced from the originals sent from the Post.
G. W. Field.
Draughtsman.
I-16-1882.

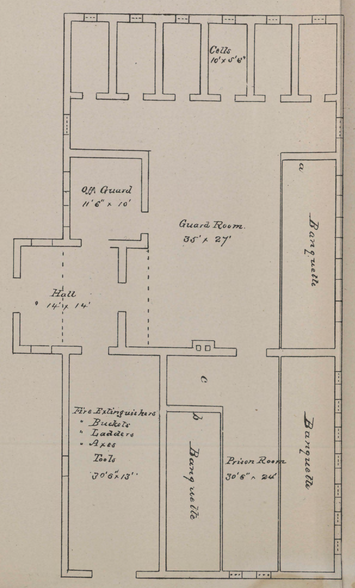












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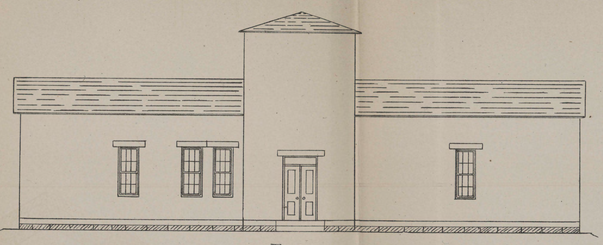

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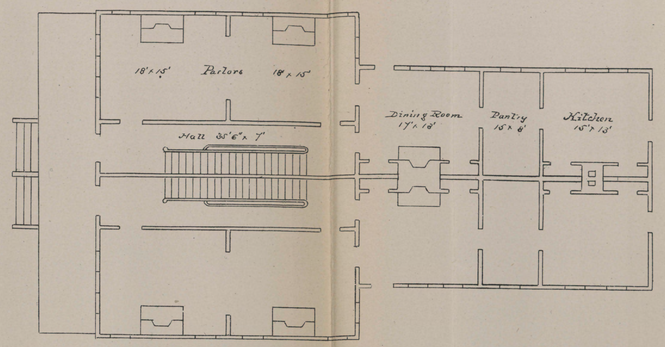

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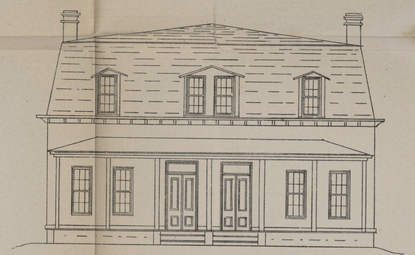

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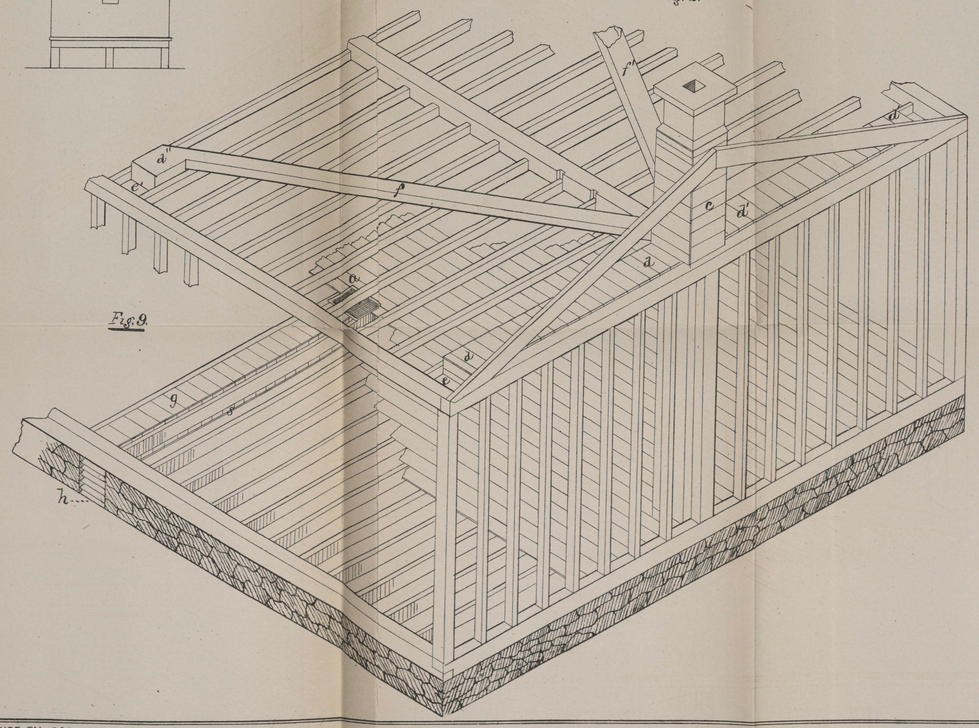


Fig. 9.

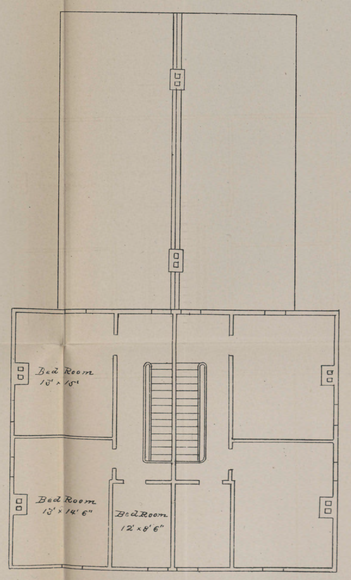
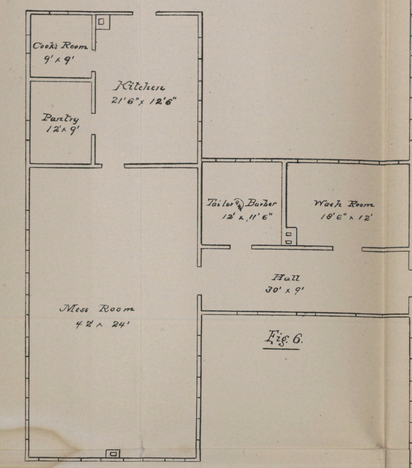


Fig. 4.



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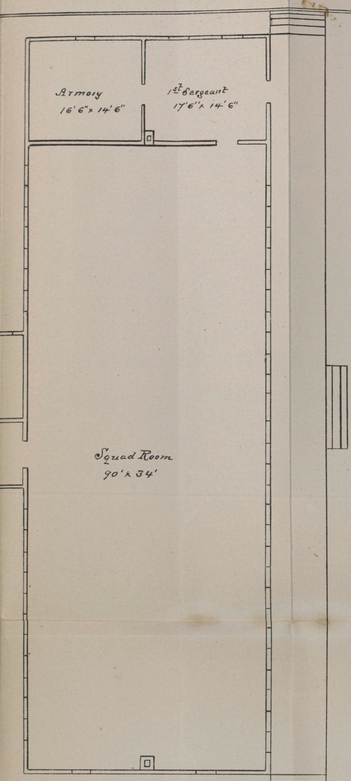

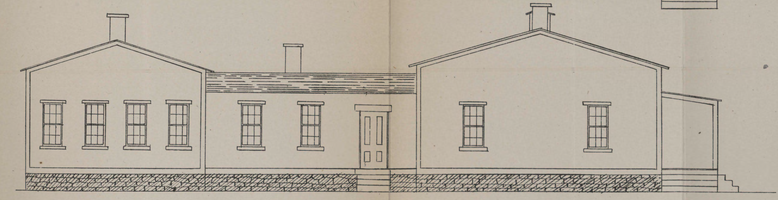

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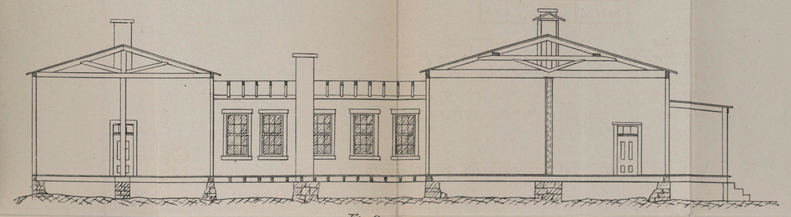


Fig. 8.

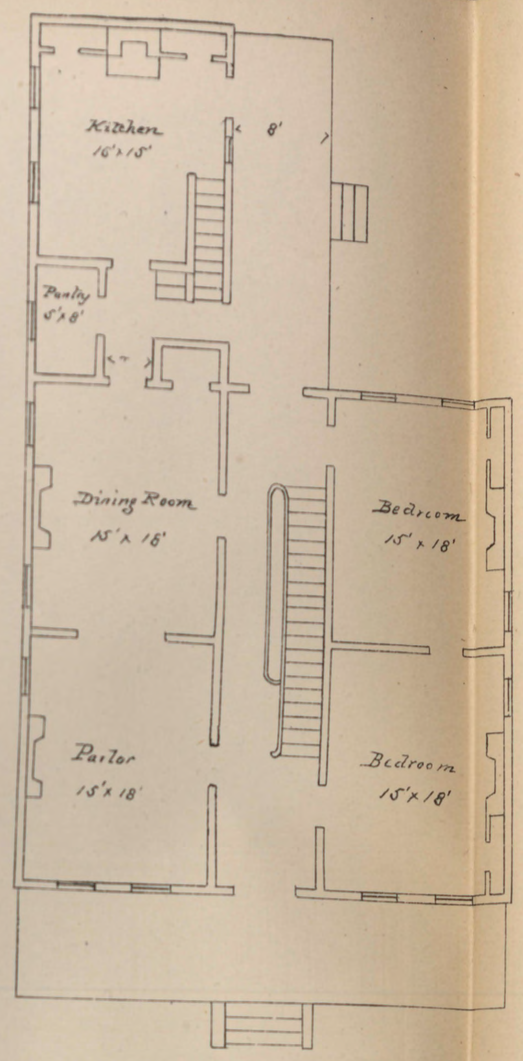
B

Proposed Buildings at Fort Thornburgh, Utah Ter.

2 Stables - Cavalry	26' x 120'
1 Corrall Stable	26' x 500'
1 Ice House	26' x 60'
1 Building for Blacksmith, Tinsmith, Carpenter, Wheelwright, and Saddler	26' x 125'

98	C.Q.M.O. Dept Platte	T. 1882

Traced in C.Q.M.O. Dept Platte from the originals sent from the Post
G.W. Field. Draughtsman
I-16 1882.



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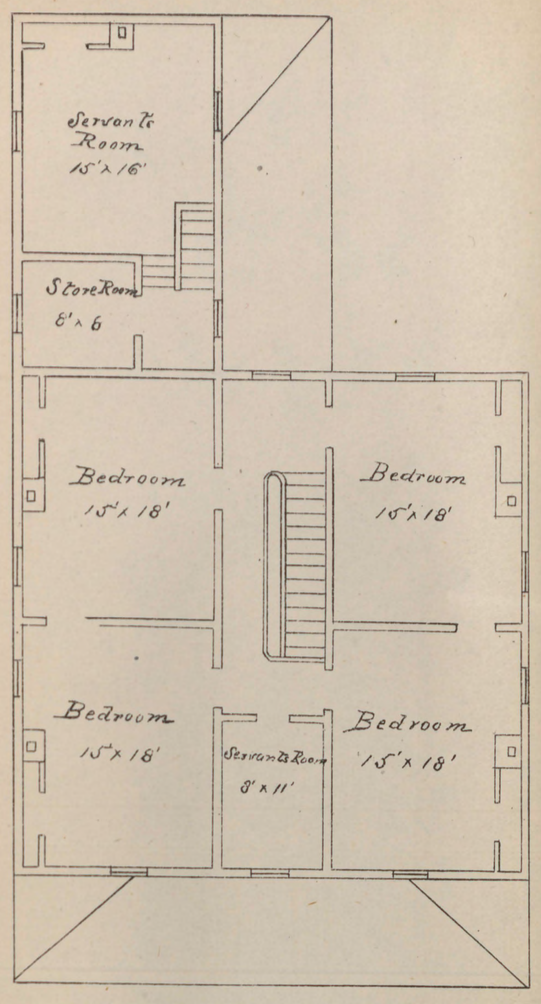
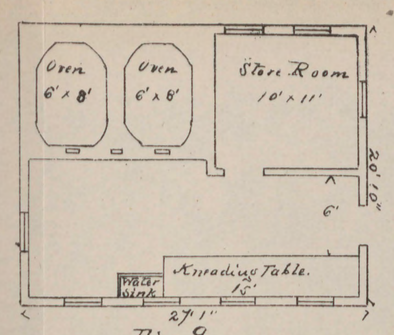


Fig. 2.



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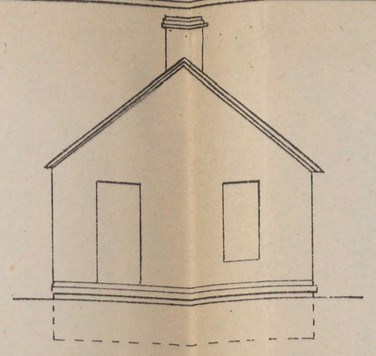
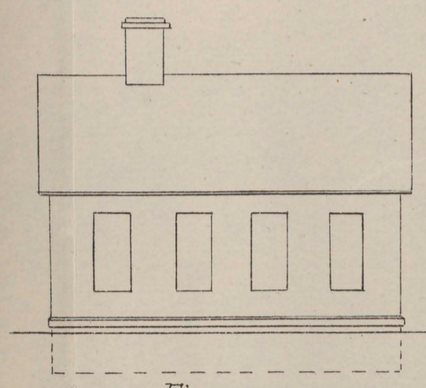


Fig. 10.
End Elevation.



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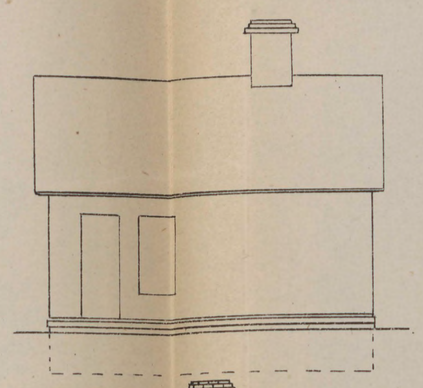

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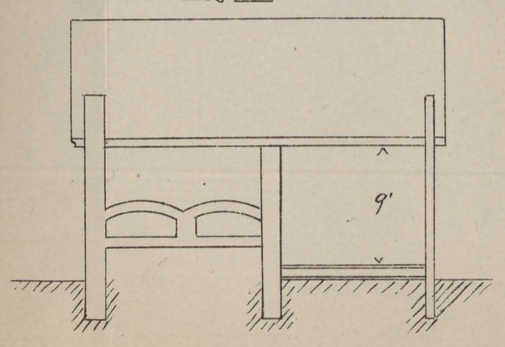

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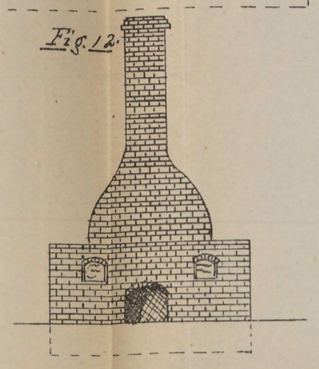

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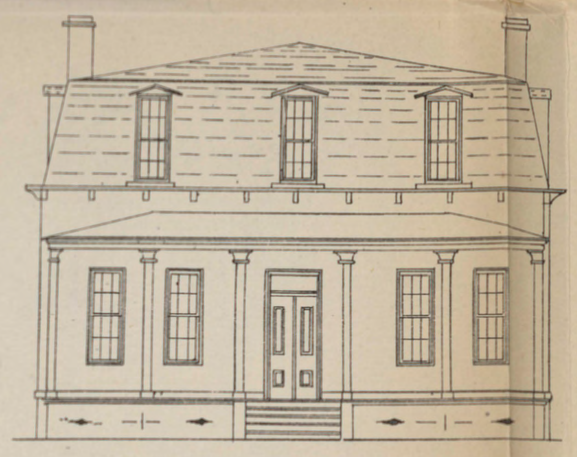

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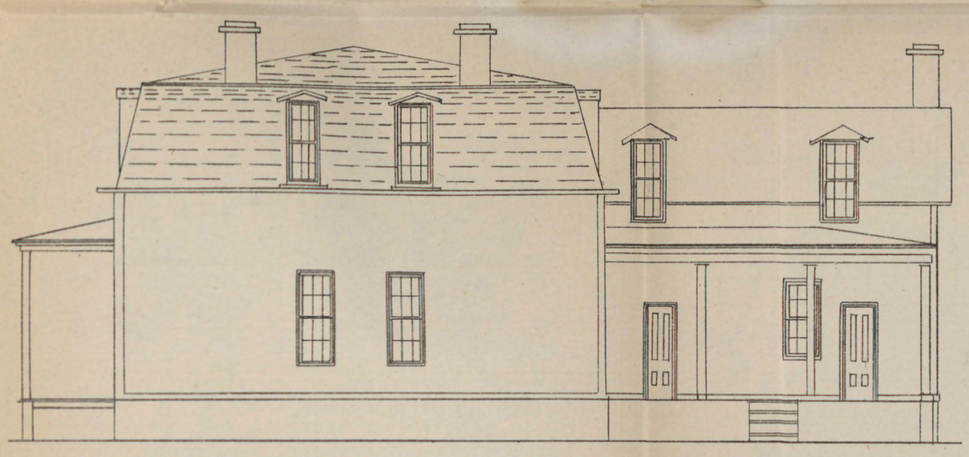

Fig. 4.

C

Scale
0 5 10

Proposed Buildings
at
Fort Thornburgh, Utah.

98	C.Q.M.O. Dept. Platte	T. 1882.

Traced from the original plans sent from the Post
G.W. Field.
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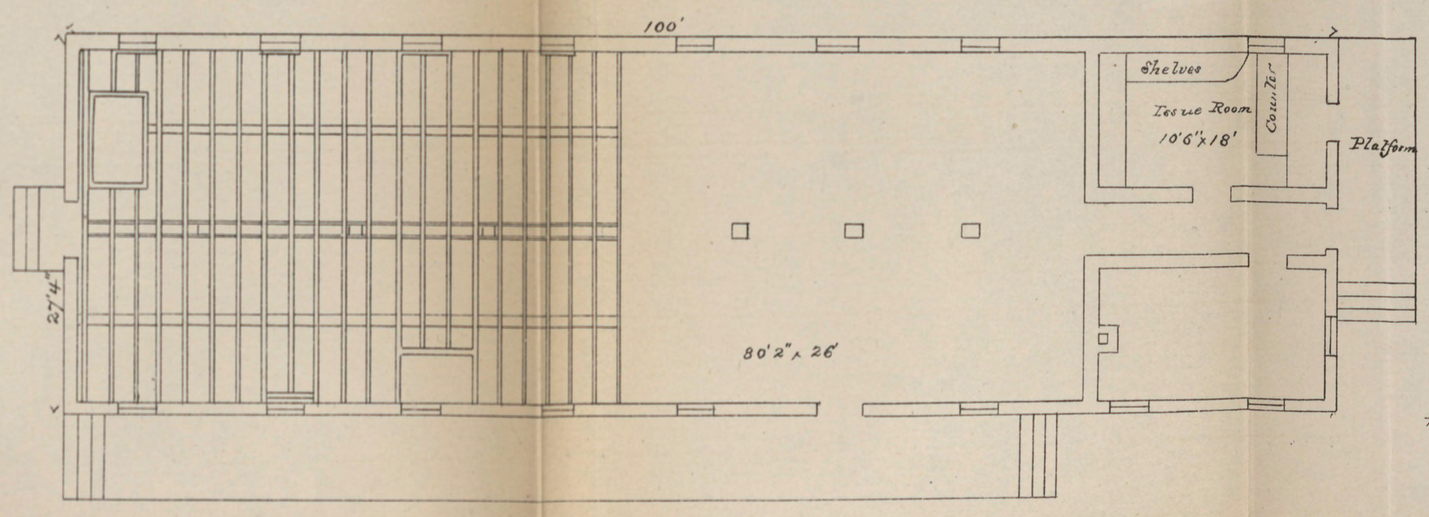

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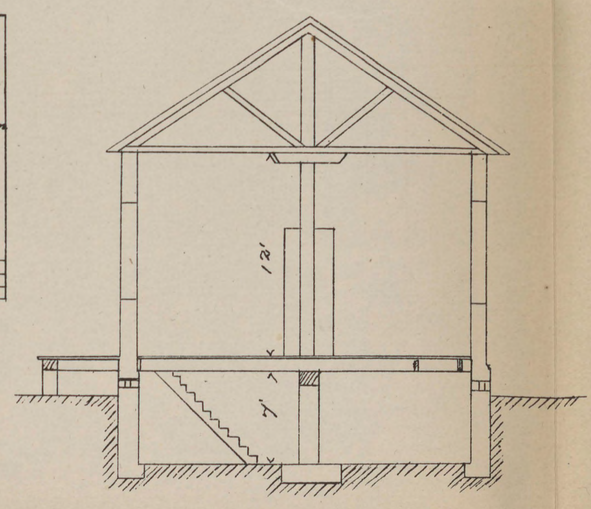

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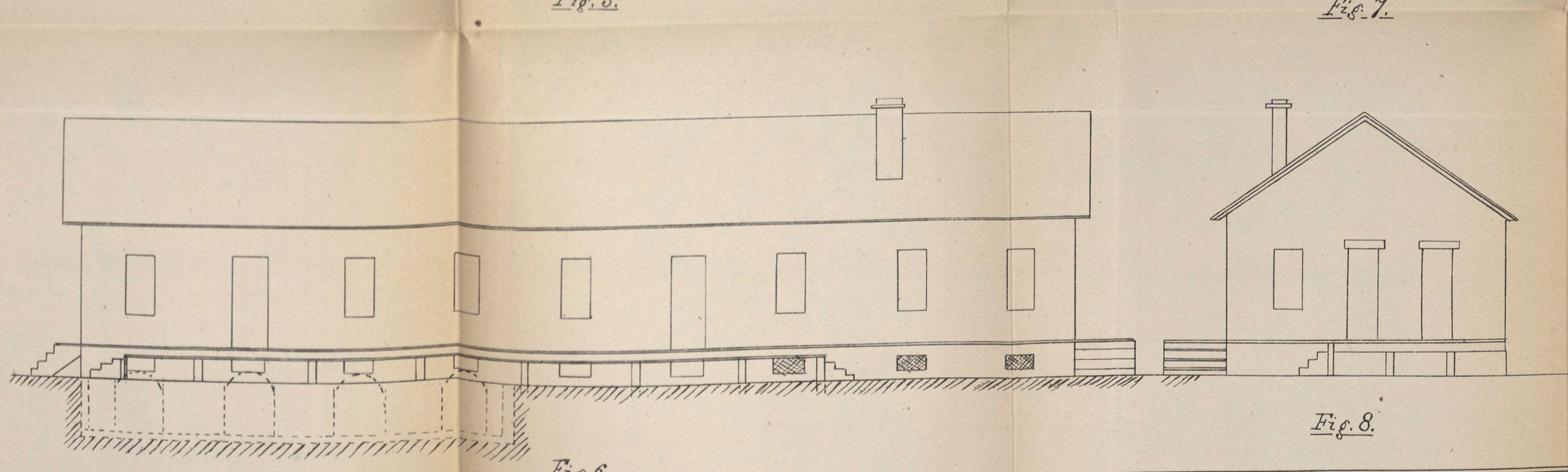

Fig. 6.

Fig. 8.